

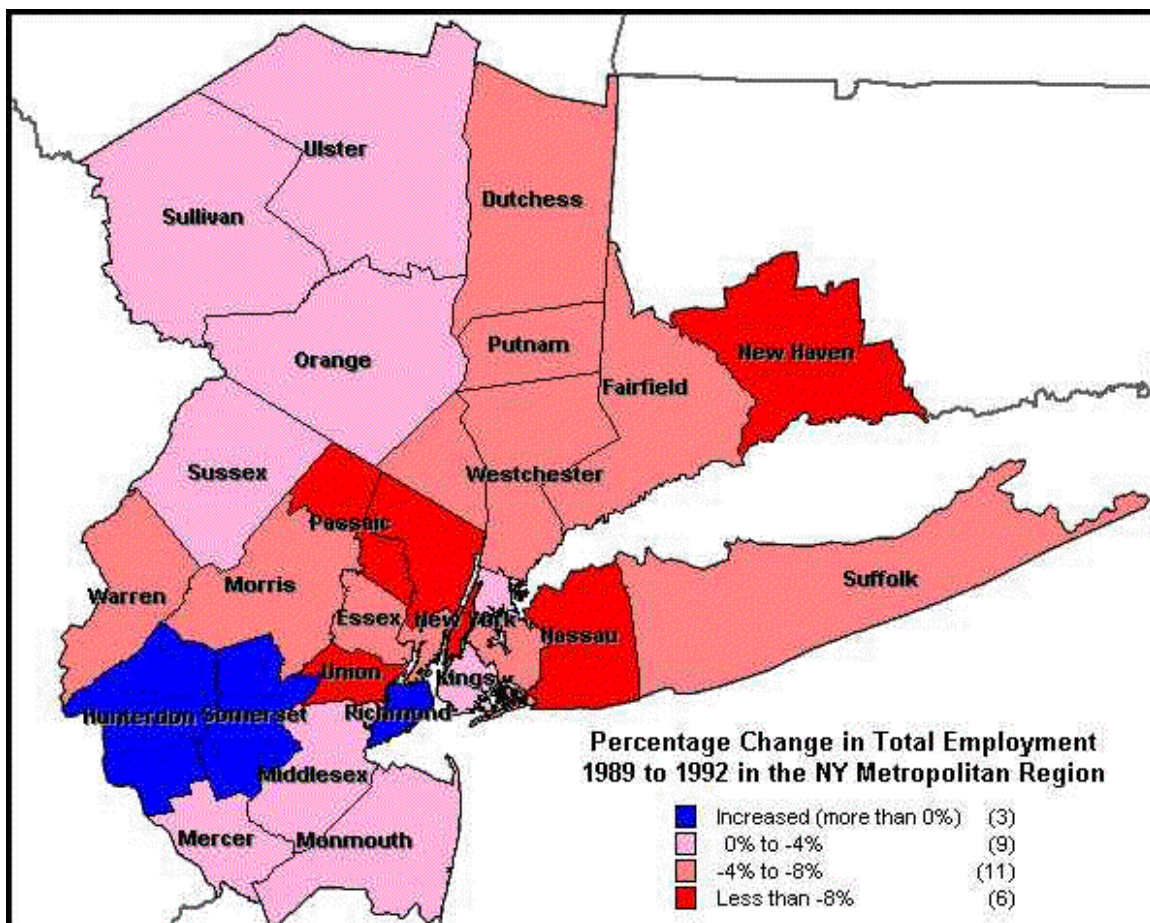
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

New York City, New York

Profile of Drug Indicators

August 2000



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

New York City

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population: 7,320,477
- Race/Ethnicity of New York City Metro Area: 60.9% White; 16.2% Black; 6.0% Asian; 6.3% Puerto Rican; Other Hispanic 10.6%

Politics²

- Mayor: Rudolph Giuliani
- Borough Presidents: Manhattan - C. Virginia Fields; Brooklyn - Howard Golden; Bronx-Fernando Ferrer; Queens - Claire Shulman; Staten Island - Guy Molinari
- District Attorneys: Manhattan - Robert M. Morgenthau; Brooklyn - Charles J. Hynes; Bronx - Robert T. Johnson; Queens - Richard A. Brown; Staten Island - William L. Murphy
- Police Commissioner: Howard Safir
- NYPD Chief: Joseph P. Dunne
- Commanding Officer, Narcotics Division: Charles Kammerdener

Programs/Initiatives

- New York/New Jersey High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)³
Designated as one of the five original High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas in 1990, the New York/New Jersey HIDTA employs a multi-agency task force approach to disrupting and dismantling drug-related money laundering and drug gang organizations. This region presents an ideal location for the importation of drugs through its two major international airports, several domestic airports, two major railroad complexes, hundreds of miles of subway tracks, extensive waterfront with various points-of-entry, and complex network of highways, bridges and tunnels. In addition, New York City is the financial capital of the world, which provides drug traffickers with the perfect opportunity for laundering drug profits.
- Executive Office of Weed and Seed⁴
 - The East New York community of Brooklyn became an official Weed and Seed site in 1996. It is located near Kennedy Airport bordering Queens, NY.
 - The Mott Haven-Bronx Weed and Seed site targets the Jose de Diego Beekman Houses that are spread across the South Bronx. This area was selected as a Weed and Seed site in 1995 due to the high volume of drug dealing. NYPD reports reveal heavy narcotic activity within buildings in the Beekman complex.
 - Additional Weed and Seed sites: Castle Hill-Bronx, Far Rockaway-Queens

➤ **ASPIRE⁵**

The ASPIRE program is a partnership among the New York City police department, the Housing Bureau, and the New York City Housing Authority and is designed to serve children ages 9 to 12 and 13 to 19 who live within and near New York City housing developments. The curriculum is a 10-week program consisting of workshops on leadership, responsibility, and drug prevention among other things. The goal of the program is to foster and enhance positive police/youth relationships.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- The total number of Index Crimes known to the police in New York City dropped 7.1% from 1998 to 1999.⁶

Index Offenses Known to the Police, NYC, 1996-1999

Offense	1996	1997	1998	1999	% Change 1998-1999
Index Total	383,603	356,573	323,441	299,523	- 7.1%
Murder	983	769	633	671	+ 6.0%
Rape	2,331	2,158	2,046	1,702	- 16.8%
Robbery	49,693	44,718	39,378	36,100	- 8.3%
Aggrav. Assault	45,721	45,221	43,853	40,511	- 7.6%
Burglary	61,398	54,147	46,221	40,469	- 12.4%
Larceny/Theft	163,096	157,648	147,211	140,377	- 4.6%
Motor V. Theft	60,381	51,912	44,094	39,693	- 10.0%

- There were 139,078 total drug offense arrests in New York City in 1998.⁷

Drug Offense Arrests, New York City, 1997-98

	Total	Sale/Manu- facture Total	Use/Posses- sion Total
1998	139,078	47,900	91,178
1997	122,306	44,798	77,508

- The total number of arrests for felony drug violations rose from 41,739 in 1997 to 45,977 in 1998. Preliminary data for 1999 show 40,090 arrests for felony drug violations.⁸

Adult Arrests in New York City, 1995-1999 (Preliminary)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Total Arrests	316,703	314,359	335,264	345,325	314,262
Total Felony	135,137	132,630	130,299	130,167	116,949
Violent	49,558	45,677	45,538	42,765	37,413
Drug	43,699	45,316	41,739	45,977	40,090
Other	41,880	41,637	43,022	41,425	39,446
Total Misdemeanor	181,566	181,729	204,967	215,158	197,313
Drug	52,895	54,145	63,783	82,536	78,350
DWI	5,764	4,624	4,541	4,225	3,464
Other	122,906	122,965	136,643	128,397	115,499

- In New York City during 1999, 81.3% of the 1,200 female arrestees sampled tested positive for drug use at the time of their arrest. 74.7% of the 2,190 male arrestees samples tested positive. 93.9% of the females charged with drug possession tested positive for drugs.⁹

Percent of Arrestees Testing Positive for Drugs, New York City, 1999

Offense Type	Cocaine		Marijuana		PCP		Any Drug	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Violent	30.7	39.3	40.6	33.5	0.4	2.4	60.7	65.5
Property	48.3	65.9	33.6	19.3	1.0	1.3	72.8	78.8
Drug	52.6	80.8	48.8	25.0	1.2	1.0	88.8	92.9
Sales	55.9	81.4	42.3	21.7	1.8	1.2	87.9	88.2
Possession	53.7	80.0	49.4	26.1	0.9	1.0	89.6	93.9
Prostitution	43.6	66.5	35.9	31.9	0.0	0.5	61.5	88.6
Other	38.0	51.4	35.9	24.5	0.5	0.0	66.1	67.8

Drugs

- Cocaine and Crack

New York City was one of only two CEWG cities to report a decrease in cocaine/crack indicators. Despite this decline, cocaine/crack was still a primary drug of concern in NYC.¹⁰ Cocaine dominates the current drug market within the New York/New Jersey HIDTA region. Colombian drug trafficking organizations control the source of the drug, while Dominican organizations control the distribution.¹¹ This drug continues to account for major problems in New York City. It has been shown that some street-level crack dealers in NYC are now opting to sell cocaine hydrochloride (HCl) or heroin instead of crack. Most crack sellers in NYC are no longer using vials to package the drug but are now using small plastic bags or aluminum foil. These newer packaging materials are easier to conceal from police.¹²

- Heroin

NYC continues to be the most significant heroin destination and distribution center in the U.S.¹³ Heroin-selling locations continue to spread throughout NYC. Many former crack sellers have switched drugs and are now selling heroin because of its high profit

potential. While Colombians continue to control the production, processing, and smuggling aspects of the drug operation, the Dominican drug gangs control the distribution of heroin, crack, and cocaine HCl in NYC. These Dominican gangs are not unified but are separate groups, each acting independently with its own leadership. The majority of people seen buying heroin in NYC seem to be in their late twenties and thirties, and there does not appear to be one race that is buying at a higher rate than another.¹⁴

➤ Marijuana/Hashish

Marijuana is the most highly abused illegal drug in the New York/New Jersey HIDTA region.¹⁵ The Street Studies Unit (SSU) in NYC also reports that marijuana is the most sought after illegal substance in the NYC metropolitan area.¹⁶ Marijuana activity continues to show steady and dramatic increases, especially among adolescents and young adults. One of the primary means of smoking marijuana continues to be with the blunt cigar. The NYPD is making an effort to discourage marijuana activity in NYC despite the decriminalization of possessing small amounts of marijuana.¹⁷

➤ Other Drugs

- U.S. Customs officials have stated that New York City is becoming the center of the booming illegal importation of Ecstasy (MDMA).¹⁸ Increased supplies of MDMA from Belgium and the Netherlands have been reported in NYC.¹⁹
- Methamphetamine has not been shown to surface very often in NYC. When it is used, though, it is often used in nightclubs along with hallucinogenic drugs.²⁰
- PCP (“angel dust”) continues to be available in NYC. PCP is frequently used as an adulterant to boost weak marijuana.²¹
- “Dipping” is a recent phenomenon in NYC that involves submerging a cigarette in formaldehyde and letting it dry. Consequently, the individual ingests the active chemicals in formaldehyde. Adolescents who may not be able to afford to buy more expensive drugs practice this method of drug use. Effects of using formaldehyde as an inhalant include numbness, slurred speech, loss of coordination, auditory hallucinations, and paranoia.²²

Juveniles

- In FY99, the New York City Department of Juvenile Justice had 6,844 admissions to detention: 5,301 to secure detention and 1,543 to non-secure detention.²³
- 63% of those juveniles admitted during FY99 were African American. 83% of those admitted were males.²⁴
- A 1999 survey of New York City high school students indicated that 31.6% of them had tried marijuana at least once in their lifetimes.²⁵

New York City High School Students Using Selected Drugs, 1999

Drug Type and Use	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime Marijuana Use (1)	28.8	34.4	31.6
Current Marijuana Use (2)	15.0	19.6	17.3
Lifetime Cocaine Use	2.9	3.7	3.3
Current Cocaine Use	1.2	2.2	1.7
Lifetime Inhalant Use	10.0	8.5	9.3
Current Inhalant Use	3.6	2.7	3.1
Lifetime Heroin Use	0.7	1.3	1.0
Lifetime Methamphetamine Use	3.2	2.6	2.9
Lifetime Illegal Steroid Use	1.5	4.0	2.7
Lifetime Injecting Illegal Drug Use	0.4	1.3	0.8

1. Lifetime Use = ever tried drug in life

2. Current Use = used drug one or more times in last 30 days before survey

- 8.0% of male New York City high school students surveyed reported trying marijuana before age 13.²⁶

Enforcement

- The NYPD is one of the largest municipal police departments in the United States covering the City's five boroughs: Manhattan; the Bronx; Brooklyn; Queens; and Staten Island. This area is approximately 320 square miles.²⁷
- The New York City Police Department has over 50,000 employees.²⁸
- Under the Narcotics Division of NYPD's Organized Crime Control Bureau are various units with the mission of identifying, arresting, and eliminating drug gangs and individuals who control drug operations. The specialty squads of the Narcotics Division are as follows:²⁹
 - Drug Enforcement Task Force: This joint task force consists of federal, state and Organized Crime Control Bureau investigators working together to target middle and upper level drug traffickers and importers.
 - Kennedy Airport Narcotics Smuggling Unit (KANSU): KANSU is a joint effort between Narcotics Borough Queens and the United States Customs Service. KANSU was designed to interdict illegal narcotics from gaining entry into the U.S. via Kennedy Airport.
 - Narcotics Investigation and Tracking of Recidivist Offenders (NITRO): The NITRO unit coordinates, develops, maintains and disseminates narcotics intelligence through debriefings and computer databases. The NITRO unit is designed to focus prioritized enforcement efforts of participating criminal justice agencies on career felony drug offenders and New York City firearms violators identified by the NYPD.
- Narcotics Control Unit (NCU): Under the Department of Housing Preservation and Development, the NCU is responsible for countering drug trafficking in city-owned buildings. NCU works regularly with approximately 25 police precincts and the Narcotics Division of the NYPD.³⁰

Trafficking and Seizures

- Drug distribution and street level sales remain high in NYC.³¹
- In addition to the Colombian and Dominican drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) operating in NYC, Mexican DTOs and street gangs, Asian criminal enterprises, and Jamaican DTOs also control some of the crack and marijuana distribution in certain areas of the City.³²
- During 1999, 1.3 million Ecstasy tablets were confiscated in NYC. In 1998, only 48,400 Ecstasy tablets were confiscated.³³
- NYC is believed to be the biggest importer of Ecstasy from other countries. It is usually smuggled into the country in luggage, but also enters in mailed packages, imported cars and furniture. Authorities believe NYC suppliers provide Ecstasy to a wide market in the Northeast.³⁴

Courts

- Drug Courts³⁵
 - As of March 31, 2000 there were 5 drug courts in the New York City area that had recently been implemented.
 - At this time, there were also 4 drug courts being planned in the area.
- Preliminary data for 1999 show that there were a total of 16,012 drug-related felony indictments in New York City during this time. This number represents a 20.6% decrease in the number of drug-related felony indictments from 1998 to 1999.³⁶

Felony Prosecutions in New York City, 1996-1999 (Preliminary)

	1996	1997	1998	1999	% Change 1998-99
% Prosecuted in the Upper Courts	31.7%	29.4%	27.1%	25.1%	----
Total Indictments/SCIs	41,603	36,972	36,403	29,609	- 18.1%
Violent	11,846	11,231	10,084	8,490	- 16.1%
Drug	22,854	18,927	20,145	16,012	- 20.6%
Other	6,903	6,814	6,174	5,107	- 17.6%

- The Brooklyn Treatment Court represents an innovative approach to handling substance-abusing defendants within the court system. Collaborative partnerships with the Kings County District Attorney, the Legal Aid Society, the New York City Department of Correction and other criminal justice agencies have resulted in a comprehensive court-based response to the needs of nonviolent substance abusing offenders. This program offers treatment as an alternative to incarceration.³⁷

Corrections

- For FY99, the average daily population within the New York City Department of Correction was 17,562.³⁸
- The average age of inmates was 31. 56% of the inmates were African American, 35% were Latino, 7% were white, and 2% were of another race.³⁹

- The RAP (Reducing Adolescent Problems) program of the NYC Department of Correction is an intervention strategy targeting peer pressures that lead to involvement with drugs, gangs, and violence. In the RAP program, youths encounter the realistic consequences of their antisocial behavior through a facility tour on Rikers Island.⁴⁰
- At any one time the NYC Department of Probation is responsible for the supervision of more than 60,000 adults and 4,000 juveniles.⁴¹

Consequences of Use

- In 1998 there were 935 drug abuse deaths reported by Medical Examiners (ME) in New York City. There were 1,081 drug abuse deaths in New York City in 1997. This represents a 13.5% decrease in the number of drug abuse deaths reported in NYC from 1997-1998.⁴²

Drug Abuse Deaths, NYC, 1995-98

1995	1996	1997	1998
1,511	1,288	1,081	935

- Cocaine was mentioned in 515 of the drug abuse deaths in 1998.⁴³

Drug Mentions by ME, NYC, 1998

Cocaine	Heroin/ Morphine	Inhalants/ Solv./Aeros.	Marijuana/ Hashish	Methadone	Metham/ Speed
515	448	5	53	111	2

- From January to June 1999, there were 7,557 Emergency Department (ED) cocaine mentions in New York City.⁴⁴

Estimated Number of ED Drug Mentions, NYC, January-June 1999

Cocaine	Heroin/Morphine	Marij./Hashish	Metham./Speed
7,557	4,195	1,836	12

- In 1998 there were 58,368 Emergency Department (ED) drug mentions in New York City hospitals.⁴⁵

Estimated Number of ED Mentions by Drug, NYC, 1997-98

Cocaine		Heroin/ Morphine		Marijuana/ Hashish		Methamphet- amine/Speed	
1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
20,202	19,549	9,491	9,244	3,842	3,684	32	36

Treatment

- There were 20,488 clients admitted for treatment in New York City for cocaine, heroin, and marijuana during the first half of 1997.⁴⁶

Characteristics of Clients Admitted to State Funded and Non-Funded Treatment Facilities in New York City, January-June 1997

Demographic Characteristics	Cocaine	Heroin	Marijuana
Total Clients	7,862	9,553	3,073
Gender			
Male	60%	70%	75%
Female	40%	30%	25%
Age			
< 26	8%	16%	66%
26-35	50%	38%	24%
> 35	42%	56%	10%
Average Age	34.6 years	37.0 years	23.6 years
Race			
Black	65%	34%	57%
Hispanic	18%	44%	28%
White	15%	20%	13%

- Drug Treatment Alternative to Prison (DTAP)⁴⁷
Initiated in 1990 by the King's County District Attorney, Charles J. Hynes, DTAP was the first prosecution-run program in the country to divert prison-bound felony offenders to residential drug treatment. This program is based on the premise that defendants would return to society in a better position to resist drugs and crime after treatment than if they had spent a comparable time in prison. DTAP targets drug-addicted defendants arrested for non-violent felony offenses who have previously been convicted of one or more nonviolent felonies. Defendants entered into DTAP have their sentences deferred while undergoing 15-24 months of intensive drug treatment.
- As of February 2000, 1,130 defendants had been accepted into the DTAP program, 231 were still in treatment and 438 had completed the program and have had their charges dismissed.⁴⁸
- Through its Central Placement Unit, the NYC Department of Probation secures drug treatment for probationers who are deemed to have an alcohol or drug abuse problem. This treatment can be ordered by the judge or by a probation officer.⁴⁹

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: www.census.gov

² New York City Web site: <http://www.ci.nyc.ny.us/>

³ High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, New York/New Jersey, <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/ny-nj-fs.html>

⁴ Executive Office of Weed and Seed: <http://www.weedseed.org/siteinfo.asp>

⁵ National Crime Prevention Council, *Six Safer Cities: On the Crest of the Crime Prevention Wave*, March 1999

⁶ New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services Web site: <http://criminaljustice.state.ny.us/cgi/internet/areastat/areastat.cgi>

⁷ New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, *1998 Crime and Justice Annual Report*: http://www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us/crimnet/ojsa/cja_98/cj98sec2.pdf

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- ⁸ New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services Web site:
<http://www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us/cgi/internet/areastat/areastat.cgi>
- ⁹ National Institute of Justice, *1999 Annual Report on Drug Use Among Adult and Juvenile Arrestees*, July 2000
<http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/nij/99adltfind.pdf>
- ¹⁰ Community Epidemiology Work Group, *Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse, Advance Report*, December 1999
- ¹¹ High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, New York/New Jersey,
<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/ny-nj-fs.html>
- ¹² Community Epidemiology Work Group, *Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse*, January 1999,
<http://www.cdmgroup.com/cewg>
- ¹³ High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, New York/New Jersey,
<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/ny-nj-fs.html>
- ¹⁴ Community Epidemiology Work Group, *Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse*, January 1999,
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- ¹⁸ *Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Weekly*, April 24, 2000
- ¹⁹ Community Epidemiology Work Group, *Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse, Advance Report*, December 1999
- ²⁰ Community Epidemiology Work Group, *Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse*, January 1999,
<http://www.cdmgroup.com/cewg>
- ²¹ Ibid.
- ²² Ibid.
- ²³ New York City Department of Juvenile Justice: <http://www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/djj/html/facts.html>
- ²⁴ Ibid.
- ²⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance - United States, 1999*
- ²⁶ Ibid.
- ²⁷ New York City Police Department: <http://www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/nypd/home.html>
- ²⁸ New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, *1998 Crime and Justice Annual Report*:
http://www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us/crimnet/ojsa/cja_98/cj98sec2.pdf
- ²⁹ New York City Police Department, <http://www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/nypd/html/occd/narco2.html>
- ³⁰ New York City Department of Housing and Preservation Development,
<http://www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/hpd/html/tenant/ncu.html>
- ³¹ High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, New York/New Jersey,
<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/ny-nj-fs.html>
- ³² Ibid.
- ³³ *Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Weekly*, April 24, 2000
- ³⁴ Ibid.
- ³⁵ OJP Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, American University, *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State and County*, March 31, 2000
- ³⁶ New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services Web site:
<http://criminaljustice.state.ny.us/cgi/internet/areastat/areastat.cgi>
- ³⁷ Drug Court Program Office Web site: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/depo.htm>
- ³⁸ New York City Department of Correction Web site: <http://www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/doc/home.html>
- ³⁹ Ibid.
- ⁴⁰ Ibid.
- ⁴¹ New York City Department of Probation Web site: <http://www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/prob/home.html>
- ⁴² Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Drug Abuse Warning Network Annual Medical Examiner Data 1998*, March 2000:
http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/DAWN/98me_annual.pdf
- ⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Mid-Year 1999 Preliminary Emergency Department Data from the Drug Abuse Warning Network*, March 2000: http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/DAWN/DawnMidYr/99mid_year.pdf

⁴⁵ Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Year-End 1998 Emergency Department Data from the Drug Abuse Warning Network*, December 1999, <http://www.samhsa.gov/OAS/DAWN/98yr-end-rev04.pdf>

⁴⁶ Community Epidemiology Work Group, *Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse*, January 1999, <http://www.cdmgroup.com/cewg>

⁴⁷ Office of the District Attorney, King's County, New York, *Drug Treatment Alternatives to Prison (DTAP) Program*

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ New York City Department of Probation Web site: <http://www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/prob/home.html>

This State Profile was prepared by the ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse is funded by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and is a component of the [National Criminal Justice Reference Service](#). For further information concerning the contents of this profile or other drug policy issues, contact:

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